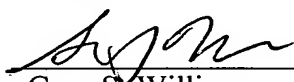## REMARKS

This amendment precedes the issuance of a first substantive office action.

No new matter has been added. New claim 34 is supported by text in the application found on pages 22 (2nd, 3rd and 4th paragraphs), page 24 (last two paragraphs), and page 36 (paragraph beginning "When applied on all of the ..."), and elsewhere in the application as well.

New claim 35 is based on the original claim 11. Support for the added limitation of the coupling step is found on pages 48-52 in association with the detailed description of Figure 14. Claims 36-38 are directed to a method for aggregating the namespace of multiple file systems. Support for these claims is found on pages 29-30 in association with the detailed description of Figure 6. Claims 39-41 are directed to a method for aggregating directories of multiple file systems. Support for these claims is found on pages 30-32 in association with the detailed description of Figure 7. Claims 42-44 are directed to a method for aggregating file objects of multiple file systems. Support for these claims found on pages 32-33 in association with the detailed description of Figure 8. Claims 45-54 are apparatus claims of a file switch implementing the inventive method claims 35-44. The support for these apparatus claims is the same as the support for the corresponding method claims 35-44.

Respectfully submitted,

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